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value of a unit in a higher position is always 20 times the value of a unit in the next lower position, except in the case of the third place, where its value is only 18 times that of the second place.

In historical research and elsewhere, the mathematician seeks cordial cooperation with other scientists, and he regrets that the confusion of tongues, resembling the experiences at the tower of Babel, is making it more and more difficult to understand each other. In the case of scientists this confusion is mainly due to a rapid growth of language in various directions. May we not hope that as many theories which were supposed to be distinct suddenly exhibited profound connections, so also this extensive language will tend towards unity and simplicity as we see more clearly the fundamental underlying principles. Science knows no bounds in method or in subject-matter and the artificial limitations set by man for his own convenience in making a start must break down before the onward march of truth. All science is a unit and all scientific investigators should be inspired by their common interests.

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#### SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

##### FORESTRY ORGANIZATION FOR THE WAR

A "FORESTRY regiment," made up of foresters, practical woodsmen, loggers, portable sawmill operators and others experienced in lumbering operations, for service in France, will, it is announced, be raised immediately. The Forest Service, at the request of the War Department, will prepare plans for the organization and equipment of the force and will aid in securing suitable men. The regiment will form a unit of the Engineer Corps now being recruited to be sent abroad as soon as it can be organized and equipped.

The organization of this regiment is the result of a suggestion made by the British

Commission. Similar forces have been raised in Canada and are rendering valuable services. The object of the American forestry regiment, it is said, will be to convert available timber into material suitable for bridges, railroads, trenches and other construction work with the least possible waste. At the same time the cutting will be done under the supervision of technical experts in cooperation with the French foresters. In this way the permanent damage to the forests incident to furnishing the imperatively needed timber, it is hoped, will be kept as small as possible.

The regiment will be organized in units capable of handling all kinds of woods work and will include a number of portable sawmill outfits. It will be officered by trained foresters and expert lumbermen who are thoroughly familiar with producing and delivering lumber. It will carry complete equipment for all kinds of woods work. The classes of men desired comprise axemen, teamsters, tie-cutters, millwrights, saw-filers, sawyers, portable sawmill men, farriers, blacksmiths, lumberjacks, cooks and carpenters, as well as motorcycle and motor-truck operators. As rapidly as enlistments are secured, the men will be assembled at six central points, which have already been designated.

##### EXPEDITIONS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

A LETTER from Mr. H. C. Raven recounts the collection of many kinds of wild rats, shrews, bats, squirrels, etc., made in the East India Islands. The first shipment received at the National Museum included 319 mammals and about 300 birds. Mr. Raven recently explored the central part of Borneo, thence working southward by cart and pack train, and is now supposed to be in the southern part of the island. Another collection of miscellaneous matter just received from Mr. Raven includes ethnological specimens, mammals, birds, also reptiles, shells and insects.

Mr. Arthur deC. Sowerby, who has been exploring in China for the National Museum, has not been very successful owing to the conditions there, but managed to visit Shanghai and several places on the lower Yangtze. A